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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in part IV of its report (A/50/618/Add.3, para. 7)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 41st meeting, on 5 December 1995, the Second Committee adopted without a vote a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" as contained in part IV of its report (A/50/618/Add.3, para. 7). At the time of adoption of the draft resolution, the Second Committee had before it a statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.2/50/L.49).

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

(a) Endorse the institutional linkage between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations, as advised by the Secretary-General and adopted by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to review the functioning of this institutional linkage not later than 31 December 1999, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

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(c) Decide to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium entailing 12 weeks of conference-servicing facilities;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period;

(e) Take note of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the Convention secretariat, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/120, with particular reference to the implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, which should facilitate the establishment and relocation of the Convention secretariat and assist it in addressing any initial financial and personnel problems that may be encountered within this context, also take note of the financing arrangements contained in operative paragraphs 8 and 9, and request the Secretary-General to review these arrangements towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report on the results of this review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

3. The proposals of the Secretary-General as to how to respond to the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its first session, held in Berlin earlier this year, on institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat and the United Nations and on arrangements for administrative support to the Convention secretariat are contained in his report to the General Assembly (A/50/716 and Add.1).

4. As indicated in the addendum to the report, in the absence of any legislative decision on the part of the General Assembly regarding services to be extended to the Convention beyond 31 December 1995, no provision for such services for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies was made under section 26, Administration and management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 1/ at the time of its preparation (A/50/716/Add.1, para. 5).

5. Under the terms of operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the Second Committee would recommend to the General Assembly that 12 weeks of conference servicing of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies be included in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997 at this stage. Given the reasons outlined in his report (ibid., paras. 3 and 4), the Secretary-General is still of the view that the 1996 programme of meetings of the Convention bodies should be included in that calendar. That programme is contained in the annex to the present statement. With regard to 1997, since the programme of meetings has not yet been defined by the Parties, the Secretariat is not in a position to estimate at this stage the precise conference-servicing requirements.

6. The costs of conference servicing of the 1996 programme of meetings for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies are now estimated at $3,522,200. They have been estimated on a full-cost basis. No permanent conference-servicing capacity within the Secretariat would be available to service these meetings and temporary assistance for meetings would be required.

7. Should the General Assembly decide that the conference-servicing costs of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies should be met from the regular budget of the Organization, an additional appropriation in the amount $3,522,200 would be required under section 26E, Conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Such an appropriation would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

8. The Second Committee has also been advised in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.2/50/L.49, para. 5) that the issues of an administrative and budgetary nature referred to in operative paragraphs 8 and 10 of the draft resolution would be brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee, as appropriate, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 45/248 A, section II, of 21 December 1990, for its recommendations to the Assembly.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1).

ANNEX

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: meetings in 1996

	Dates	Venue	Estimated number of meetings	Estimated number of participants	Estimated conference-servicing costs (thousands of US dollars) a/
1. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, second session	26 February-8 March	Geneva	12	500	285.1
2. Subsidiary Body for Implementation, second session	26 February-8 March	Geneva	12	500	285.1
3. Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, third session	27 February-8 March	Geneva	16	500	311.5
4. Ad Hoc Group on Article 13, second session	8-12 July	Geneva	6	500	159.5
5. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, second session	8-19 July	Geneva	16	2 000	770.9
6. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, third session	9-15 July	Geneva	5	500	218.6
7. Subsidiary Body for Implementation, third session	9-15 July	Geneva	5	500	218.6
8. Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, fourth session	11-16 July	Geneva	8	500	255.8
9. Subsidiary Body for Implementation, fourth session	14-18 October	Geneva	10	500	275.5
10. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, fourth session	14-18 October	Geneva	10	500	275.5
11. Ad Hoc Group on Article 13, third session	21-23 October	Geneva	6	500	143.5
12. Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, fifth session	21-25 October	Geneva	14	500	322.6
Total			120		3 522.2

a/ Estimated on a full-cost basis.